  
**AnITConsultant LLC**

**Whaylon Coleman**  
 Chief Technology Officer

Office : PO BOX 22998  
 Owensboro, KY 42304-2998  
 Phone : 270-883-1450  
 Email : [it@anitconsultant.com](mailto:it@anitconsultant.com)

**ChemDry®**

- Carpet Cleaning
- Upholstery Cleaning
- Ceramic/Grout Cleaning
- Auto Interiors
- Area Rugs Cleaned

715 Cumberland St.  
 Owensboro, KY 42303  
 Phone: 270-684-0969 (Owensboro)  
 Phone: 270-827-1130 (Henderson)  
 Emergency: 270-315-2294

**Jacques Williams**  
 Manager

Pipe, Valves, Fittings, Pneumatics, Actuation, & Steam

  
**PVF**  
 Supply Company, Inc.  
 "Since 1978"

**Greg Gough**  
 (Cell) 270-993-7120  
 800-787-6803 (Fax) 270-685-2559  
 PO Box 1796, 1611 West 7th St., Owensboro, KY 42302

  
**GREENWELL CHISHOLM**

Printing  
 Signs and Banners  
 Promotions  
 Design  
 Mailing and Fulfillment

[gc1919.com](http://gc1919.com) • 270.684.3267  
 420 East Parrish Avenue  
 Owensboro, KY 42303

**Whitney Williams**  
 Hair stylist/Color specialist  
[whitbees@gmail.com](mailto:whitbees@gmail.com)

**Inner Glow Salon**

1204 Carter Rd  
 Owensboro, Ky 42301  
 (270)929-3462

Please patronize our Bulletin Advertisers. Contact the Parish Office, 270/926-4741, if you'd like to see your business here!



# Blessed Sacrament

## Mission Statement:

*Established in the Spirit of Jesus Christ with an Afro-centric focus, Blessed Sacrament Chapel is committed to spreading the "Word" through fellowship and good works.*

**Sunday Mass: 10:00AM**

**St. Stephen Cathedral Parish Office:** 270-683-6525

**Rector:** Fr. Jerry Riney, [jerry.riney@pastoral.org](mailto:jerry.riney@pastoral.org)

**Parochial Vicar:** Fr. Sinoj Pynadath, HGN  
[sinoj.pynadath@pastoral.org](mailto:sinoj.pynadath@pastoral.org)

**Parish Life Coordinator:** Sr Jeannette Fennewald,  
 SSND [pa@blessedsacramentchapel.org](mailto:pa@blessedsacramentchapel.org)

## TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — I will fix a place for my people. I will plant them so that they may dwell in their place without further disturbance (2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16).

**Psalm** — For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord (Psalm 89).

**Second Reading** — To the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be glory forever and ever (Romans 16:25-27).

**Gospel** — Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word (Luke 1:26-38).



**Fourth Sunday of Advent Dec. 20, 2020**

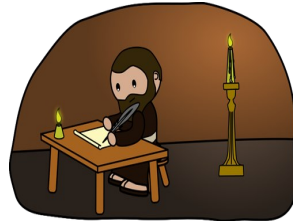
The child to be born will be called holy,  
 the Son of God.



# Behold!

## I am the handmaid of the Lord.

*From the desk of Father Sinoj*



Dear Friends in Christ,

Christmas is here! We are in the last week of Advent. I would like to wish you all a Blessed Christmas! Let us hope and pray that we receive abundant blessings on this beautiful celebration to be empowered with Peace, Joy and Hope! And let us not forget to share the graces we receive with our brothers and sisters around us that they too may experience the glory of Christ's birth.

Today's Gospel gives us the account of the Annunciation. Jesus' earthly existence begins with Mary's "Yes." His presence among us began with the conception of Jesus in Mary's womb by the power of the Holy Spirit. When Mary was able to find favor in the sight of God, she was able to bring Jesus to this world. This truth invites us to find favor in the sight of God to have a worthy celebration of this Christmas.

Mother Mary is the perfect example for us to imitate to be favored ones in the eyes of God. She teaches us that when we become doers of the Word of God, we become agents of bringing Christ to the afflicted world. Her life is a message for us that if we can live a holy life with our own limitations and doubts, we will be able to find favor in the eyes of God and bring Jesus to this world through our life. Let us cooperate with God to fulfill His promise of Emmanuel, God with us!

(^\_^) Always  
(^\_^) Keep  
(^\_^) Smiling!

God Loves You!!

Fr. Sinoj Pynadath, HGN

### December Birthdays

16--Yulanda Williams  
18--Robert Johnson  
20--Cathy Kramer  
24--Susan Mutter

### January Birthdays

3--Parker Malone



### Confessions at St. Stephen

**Sundays--5-6 PM**

**Saturdays--9:30--11:30**

### Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen

### Mass Intentions

December 20--Betty Clark  
December 24--Donald Moorman  
December 27--Kenneth Higgs  
December 31--Ann Denise Ward  
January 3--Mary Ann Calhoun

*Let us remember to pray for those who have recently died or those in the process of dying. Remember to pray for the souls in purgatory, especially for those who have no one to pray for them.*

**Our thoughts and prayers are with the sick: Merle Griffith, Tyler Cruppi, Larry Conder, Mike Coakley, Andy Evans, Jason Pierce, Ruth Coble, Gary Moorman, Pam Wilson, Frank & Gloria Adams, Larry Allen, Shirley Schmidt, Carol Hatchett, Rachel Mattingly, Nancy Bumm, Camilla Greer, Louise Johnson, Phillip Moorman, Jr. If you know of anyone seriously ill who is in need of prayer or visitation, please notify the office.**

Please remember our home-bound: Ruth Coble and Shirley Schmidt who are at Heritage Park. Georgia Holland lives in St. Louis but stays active in BSC happenings. Please pray also for all who, because they are vulnerable, cannot attend Mass. A card or phone call can cheer them up.

### St. Stephen Cathedral Christmas Mass Schedule

**Dec. 24--4:00 PM Christmas Eve**

**11:00 PM "Midnight" Mass**

**Dec. 25--9 AM Christmas Day Mass**



# Coming Events

## CALENDAR



### Blessed Sacrament Chapel

Dec. 20--Decorate Church after Mass

**Dec. 24--7 PM Christmas Eve Mass**

Dec. 31--Mass 6 PM Feast of Mary, Mother of God.

Jan. 10--Take down Christmas decorations after Mass



December 13--\$1558

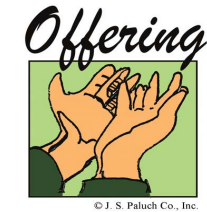
Weekly budget: \$952

MTD collections--\$2683

MTD budget--\$1904

YTD collection--\$27,231

YTD budget-- \$22,848



Candles--\$5

*May each of us give according to what the Lord has blessed us with.*



## Pope Francis’s Prayer to Mary During Coronavirus Pandemic

O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus’ pain, keeping your faith firm. You know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen. Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

### Laughs of the Week

It was coming up to Christmas and the Judge was in a jolly frame of mind. “Now then, please tell me, what is the charge against you?” “I was caught doing my Christmas shopping early,” replied the man standing before the Judge. “That doesn’t seem like an offense to me. What do you mean by ‘very early?’” “Well, your Honor,” said the defendant, “It was before the shop was open.”

A few days before Christmas, two young brothers were spending the night at their grandparent’s house. When it was time to go to bed and anxious to do the right thing, they both knelt down to say their prayers. Suddenly, the younger one began to do so in a very loud voice. “Dear Lord, please ask Santa Claus to bring me a play station, a mountain bike and a telescope.” His older brother leaned over and nudged his brother and said, “Why are you shouting your prayers? God isn’t deaf.” “I know” he replied, “But Grandma is!”

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday: Sg 2:8-14/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45
- Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8/Lk 1:46-56
- Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 /Lk 1:57-66
- Thursday: *Morning:* 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27,/Lk 1:67-79
- Friday: **Night:** Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Lk 2:1-14.  
**Dawn:** Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20.  
**Day:** Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18
- Saturday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3-4, 6, 8, 16 and 17 /Mt 10:17-22
- Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 Ps 128:1-5/ Col 3:12-21 /Lk 2:22-40

## SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCE

- Sunday: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent
- Monday: St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church
- Tuesday:
- Wednesday: St. John of Kanty, Priest
- Thursday: Christmas Eve
- Friday: The Nativity of the Lord (holy day of obligation)
- Saturday: St. Stephen, the First Martyr
- Next Sunday: The Holy Family of Jesus,

*Congratulations to Dylan and Claire Sanford on their wedding this past weekend. May their life together be blessed with support from all, especially their faith community.. May their love increase amid their joys and struggles.*

## GOD’S PROMISE

The lengthy passage from Samuel is a wonderful exposition of God’s promise to the house of David: that his throne would forever be gloriously occupied by his descendants. Hidden in the mystery of the prophecy is the promise of the Savior, the Messiah, Son of God and Son of David. The prophet Nathan, speaking in God’s name, poetically turns around David’s plan to build a house for God, and announces God’s plan to build a “house,” that is, a dynasty for David. From this house of David will come the Messiah, the Christ, not in kingly splendor as David ruled, but as a humble man, destined to rule forever and over all. When God gives a gift, it’s amazing what we are given—so different from what we ever could have imagined.



*May the light of His love shine upon you And make this Christmas a season of joy.*

*Merry Christmas!*

*Father Jerry,*

*Father Sinoj, H&N,*

*Sister Jeannette, SSND*

Lectors	
December 20:	Layson Brooks Sarah Malone
December 24:	Jacques Williams Barbara Bisel
December 27:	Kathi Skidd Sarah Malone

Finding Inspiration in Mary’s “Yes.”

There is comfort in the familiar scriptures of Advent; they become woven into our lives and hearts as we hear them throughout the years. Today’s Gospel focuses on Mary’s response to the angel Gabriel’s announcement. We can find inspiration in her faith and trust and in her response, despite her initial doubt and confusion. We, too, are called to put our faith and trust in God, even during times of doubt or fear. Along our journey to becoming mature disciples, we are called to recognize, accept, and share the gifts we are given. With grateful hearts we are called to give back to the Lord a generous portion of the gifts and blessings we receive (and we all receive gifts; we are each uniquely blessed).

Spend some time in quiet prayer during this last week of Advent. Reflect on how Mary must have felt during her visit from the angel Gabriel. Ask for the faith, trust, and courage needed to say “yes” as Mary did when the Lord calls upon us to serve.

Mary said, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.  
May it be done to me according to your word.”

On the Second Sunday of Advent we noted that “John [The Baptist] was just being John.” He discerned God’s will for him and he did it. Now we hear about “Mary just being Mary,” a young teenager in a tiny hamlet on a craggy hilltop in the northern region of Galilee. Mary heard a message from God so amazing she wondered how it could happen. But she realized it was God’s will for her and she consented. There were many details and consequences she could not know, but she said “Yes!” to be the human mother of God incarnate. That was “Mary just being Mary.” That is all God asked of her and that is all God ask of us - to be all that God creates us to be. For us, just as for John and Mary, we begin by identifying, accepting and developing all of the unique talents, abilities and gifts God has given to each of us, and then using them to the best of our ability *for ourselves and for others*. Is that not the greatest gift we can give to Jesus when we celebrate his birth on Christmas? Is our present for Jesus ready?

Gift Cards for Jesus

At the Christmas Eve service, the pastor, quizzing some children about the nativity, asked, “What gifts did the three wise men give the Christ child?”

“Gold!” one child yelled.

“Frankincense!” shouted another.

After a pause, a third asked, “Gift cards?”

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Children of the parish are somewhat focused on Santa Claus these days, who is keeping an eye on who’s naughty and who’s nice. Santa Claus, with his heavenly patron Saint Nicholas, has been more or less in charge of gift-giving to American children for a hundred years or so. In other places, perhaps more attentive to our Christian tradition, there are different gift-bearers. In Greece, Saint Basil delivers the presents on his feast day, December 31, and makes sure everyone is sprinkled with holy water. The Baby Jesus is in charge elsewhere, called the *Christkind* in Austria and Belgium, *El Niño Jesús* in Columbia, and *Le Petit Jesus* in France, where he shares his duties with *Père Noël*. In the Czech Republic almost everyone is atheist, but *Ježíšek*, the infant Jesus, brings gifts to one and all. In Poland the “Star Man” is said to bring the gifts, although often he turns out to be the village priest in disguise. Saint Nicholas, not his Americanized cousin, is the giver in Holland, where he wears a bishop’s miter, and in Russia, where he wears a bishop’s crown. Soviet Russia tried to dethrone Saint Nicholas and promote Grandfather Frost, but no one was much fooled by this attempt to squeeze religion out of Christ’s birth. One country has a saintly woman in charge of the gifts, Saint Lucy, honored in Sweden on December 13, when children serve their parents breakfast in bed. Some children have a second round of gifts on Epiphany, when the magi assume the gift-giving duties. In general, the gifts of Christmas are simple pleasures, not great heaps of treasures. Once upon a time, a new pair of socks or an orange was enough for us. No matter what gifts we receive, all of them are to point us to the true gift, and the true giver.



***Lord and Giver of all good things, the magi travelled for miles to bring the Christ Child the first Christmas presents. So may we, too, remember with thankful hearts the love that comes with each present we open. We also thank you for the love you have for each of us, and we thank you for the many gifts that you give us, especially the gift of life itself. Amen.***